

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A carotenoid composition comprising lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium-chain triglyceride.
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the medium chain triglyceride is derived from the esterification of a medium chain fatty acid and glycerol.
3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein the fatty acid is a C6 to C12 fatty acid.
4. A composition according to claim 3, wherein the fatty acid is a C8 to C10 fatty acid.
5. A composition according to claim 2, wherein the fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, and mixtures thereof.
6. A composition according to claim 1, comprising up to 10% by weight lycopene.
7. A composition according to claim 6, comprising between 4% and 5% by weight lycopene.
8. A composition according to claim 6, comprising up to 98% by weight medium chain triglyceride.
9. A composition according to claim 8, comprising between 20% and 80 % medium chain triglyceride.

10. A composition according to claim 9, comprising between 30% and 70% by weight medium chain triglyceride.

11. A composition according to claim 8, further comprising an oil-soluble antioxidant.

5 12. A composition according to claim 11, wherein the oil-soluble antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of tocopherols, butylated hydroxy anisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, ethoxyquin and ascorbyl palmitate, natural tocopherols, and mixtures thereof.

10 13. A composition according to claim 12, wherein the tocopherol is selected from the group consisting of beta, gamma-, and delta-tocopherols and mixtures thereof.

14. A composition according to claim 11, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises up to 15% by weight of the composition.

15 15. A composition according to claim 14, wherein the anti-oxidant comprises between 5% and 10% by weight of the formulation.

16. A method of providing a bioavailable antioxidant comprising orally administering to a host an effective amount of lycopene suspended or dispersed in a medium chain triglyceride.